

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 9-33, 36-38, 41-44 and 60-66 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 60, 63 and 65 being independent and claims 12, 13 and 16-32 being withdrawn.

A few of the claims previously of record were objected to and rejected on indefiniteness grounds. Applicants have addressed the objection and indefiniteness rejection issues with the current submission.

All of the claims previously of record were rejected in view of prior art, which has now been made of record. Applicants do not agree with the maintenance of these prior-art rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended, and new independent claims 60, 63 and 65 have been added, as set forth above. Applicants respectfully traverse the prior-art rejections of record as they relate to the currently pending claims.

Regarding the prior-art rejections, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Silverman for the Examiner Interviews extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Mullins, on October 21, 2008 and October 27, 2008, at which times it was indicated by the Examiner that the independent claims, as presently amended and presented, would appear to decidedly advance the prosecution of the application in the direction of overcoming the prior-art rejections of record. More particularly, while not being in a position to allow the application and reserving the right to review the case in greater detail, Examiner Silverman opined that the current independent claims should at least overcome (subject to review and confirmation) some of the prior-art rejections of record. It is submitted that each of the pending dependent claims should also be allowable at

Applicants: GÖPFERICH, Achim et al.
U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP 00/06313
Serial No: 10/019,797

Att. Docket MB9962P

least because of the dependency upon its corresponding independent base claim, and further because of the additional limitations recited therein.

Accordingly, as a result of the mentioned Examiner Interviews, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

In view of the above, the Examiner is requested to consider the application now to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any needed fees to Deposit Account 50-1600.

Respectfully submitted,



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